

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks. In the Office action mailed September 8, 2004, claims 14-48 were allowed. Additionally, claims 4-6 and 8-13 were objected to. Finally, claims 1-3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,755,960 to Tepper et al. and/or U.S. Patent No. 6,514,118 to Bart et al.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 14-48 were allowed.

Claim Objections

Applicants have rewritten claims 4, 5, 8, and 13 in independent form. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections of claims 4-6 and 8-13.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicants have canceled claims 1-3 and 7, without prejudice.

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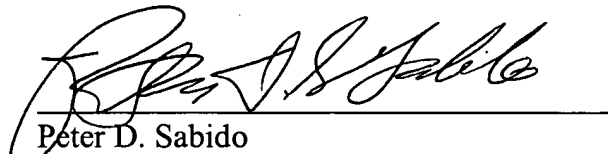
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Conclusion

The above amendments and remarks are believed to fully address the Examiner's rejections, and to place the entire application in condition for allowance. A prompt indication of the same is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephonic interview.

Respectfully submitted,

KOLISCH HARTWELL, P.C.



Peter D. Sabido

Registration No. 50,353

520 S.W. Yamhill Street, Suite 200

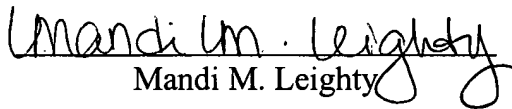
Portland, Oregon 97204

Telephone: (503) 224-6655

Facsimile: (503) 295-6679

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 8, 2004.



Mandi M. Leighty